Inter-State water disputes

2237. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to bring new law for solving Inter-State water disputes quickly by getting more powers with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring "water" under the Union list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYANA YADAV): (a) The Government has amended Inter-State Water Disputes Act in 2002 whereby the Adjudication of the water dispute by a Tribunal has been made time bound.

(b) There is no proposal at present to bring water under the Union List.

Erosion crisis in West Bengal

2238. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state.

(a) whether erosion has emerged as a crisis in some parts of West Bengal, especially in the Malda-Murshidabad districts;

(b) whether there has been any demand to declare it as a national calamity; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to curb the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYANA YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. There are reports of severe bank erosion in some parts of West Bengal including Malda and Murshidabad districts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Though the Flood Management including river erosion is a state subject, the Government of India is provding assistance to West Bengal to tackle this problem through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which was formulated in January, 2001 for implementing critical anti erosion schemes. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 28.66 crore has so far

been released to West Bengal till 2003-04 for taking up anti erosion schemes in Malda and Murshidabad districts. The above scheme is also being continued further during 2004-07 for which an amount of Rs. 51.00 crore has been earmarked for the State of West Bengal as Central share to take up the critical anti erosion works at an estimated cost of Rs. 68.00 crore which interalia include seven nos. of schemes for Malda and Murshidabad districts.

In addition to above Farakka Barrage Project Authorities are also undertaking the critical anti-erosion works in and around Farakka Barrage Project. Since 9th Plan, an amount of Rs 38.74 crore has been incurred by the project on critical anti erosion works in Malda and Murshidabad districts till June, 2004. Futher, a provision of Rs. 8.1 crore has been made under the CSS for Farakka Barrage Project to take up anti erosion works on river Ganga/Padma within its jurisdiction during 2004-07 with 100% Central funding.

In order to look into the flood & erosion problem in Assam & neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Government of India have constituted a Task Force in August 2004 which has been asked to submit their report in a time bound manner.

Interconnection of Kosi and Ghaghara rivers

†2239. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have initiated action on the proposal to interconnect Kosi and Ghaghara rivers to protect Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh for the horror of flood; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof and the cost likely to be incurred thereon and by when this scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYANA YADAV): (a) and (b) The Kosi-Gahghra link under Himalayan Component of National Perspective Plan envisage diversion of Kosi water to Gahghra river. The scheme envisages construction of Kosi reservior and link canal which has some flood control benefits for some area in Bihar & UP in addition to irrigarion benefits. Currently, National Water Development Agency (NWDA)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.